

Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's restriction requirement. MPEP § 806.05(c) requires that two-way distinctness must be demonstrated between the combination and subcombination as claimed in order to support a restriction requirement. Examiner has only shown one-way distinctness (i.e. that the valved connector subcombination does not require the Y-shaped connector of the combination.) Applicant submits however that the Y-shaped connector combination *as claimed* includes all of the limitations of the valved connector subcombination. Therefore, two-way distinctness cannot be shown. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows. A copy of the amended claims with markings to show the changes made is appended hereto.

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13. (amended) A valved connector, comprising:
a connector body having a tubular portion extending proximally therefrom, and
a valve body including a valve element with a passage therethrough, said valve body
being positioned at a proximal end of said connector body and axially movably with respect to
said connector body;
wherein said valve body is movable from a closed position in which said tubular portion
of said connector body is exterior to said passage of said valve element to an open position in
which said tubular portion of said connector body extends through said passage of said valve
element from a distal side to a proximal side of said valve element, wherein when said valve
body is in said closed position said passage of said valve element closes to form a fluid tight seal,
wherein when said valve body is in said open position said valved connector presents an open
channel for introducing a secondary device inserted through said connector body, and wherein
when said valve body is in said closed position with the secondary device inserted therethrough,
said passage of said valve element closes to form a fluid tight seal around the secondary device.

14. (amended) The valved connector of claim 19, wherein said first attachment means
comprises a male luer lock connector and said second attachment means comprises a female luer
lock connector.

15. (amended) The valved connector of claim 19, wherein said first attachment means comprises a rotating male luer lock connector and said second attachment means comprises a female luer lock connector.

NEW CLAIMS

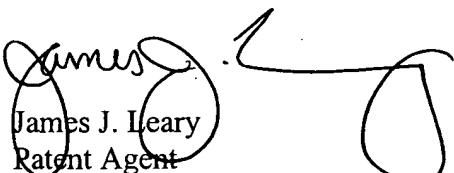
Please add new claims as follows:

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19. (NEW) The valved connector of claim 13, wherein said connector body is configured in a Y-shape with a main channel and a lateral channel branching therefrom, said valve body being positioned at a proximal end of said main channel, said connector body having a first attachment means at a distal end of said main channel and a second attachment means at a proximal end of said lateral channel.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims all define novel subject matter that is unobvious. Therefore, allowance of such claims is submitted to be proper and is respectfully requested. If Examiner deems that additional changes are needed prior to allowance of the claims, Examiner is urged to initiate a telephonic interview with applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Very respectfully submitted,


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